

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An inkjet printer comprising:

a plurality of rollers;

an endless transportation belt laid on the plurality of rollers and defining a first recess portion, which extends in a direction perpendicular to a printing medium transporting direction, in an outer circumferential surface thereof;

a belt rotating mechanism which applies a rotating force to the transportation belt;

a recording unit which is disposed to face the transportation belt and forms an image;

a printing medium supply mechanism which supplies a printing medium onto the transportation belt; and

a control unit which controls at least one of the belt rotating mechanism and the printing medium supply mechanism so that when the printing medium is on the transportation belt, one of a front end portion and a rear end portion of the printing medium is located in the first recess portion.

2. The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein when the printing medium is on the transportation belt, the other of the front end portion and the rear end portion is located in the first recess portion.

3. The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein:  
the first recess portion is a plurality of first recess portions; and

the first recess portions includes plural types of the first recess portions different from each other in length in a width direction of the transportation belt.

4. The inkjet printer according to of claim 1, further comprising an ink absorbing member on a bottom surface of the first recess portion.

5. The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein:  
the transportation belt defines at least two second recess portions, which extend in the printing medium transporting direction and are connected with the first recess portion, in the outer circumferential surface thereof; and

the printing medium supply mechanism supplies the printing medium, which is smaller in a width than the transportation belt, onto the transportation belt so that when the printing medium is on the transportation belt, both side portions of the printing medium along the printing medium transporting direction are located in the second recess portions, respectively.

6. The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein:

the transportation belt defines at least one second recess portion, which extends in the printing medium transporting direction and is connected with the first recess portions, in the outer circumferential surface thereof; and

the printing medium supply mechanism supplies the printing medium, which is smaller in a width than the transportation belt, onto the transportation belt so that when the printing medium is on the transportation belt, one of both side portions of the printing medium along the printing medium transporting direction is located in the second recess portion and the other of the both side portions overreaches a side portion of the transportation belt.

7. The inkjet printer according to of claim 5, further comprising an ink absorbing member on bottom surfaces of the first recess portion and the second recess portions.

8. The inkjet printer according to of claim 6, further comprising an ink absorbing member on bottom surfaces of the first recess portion and the second recess portion.

9. The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein:  
the first recess portion is a plurality of first recess portions; and

the control unit controls the at least one of the belt

rotating mechanism and the printing medium supply mechanism so that when the printing medium is on the transportation belt, the one of the front end portion and the rear end portion of the printing medium is located in the specific first recess portion.

10. The inkjet printer according to claim 9, wherein the specific first recess portion extends all over the width of the transportation belt.

11. The inkjet printer according to claim 10, further comprising ink absorbing members disposed on both sides of the transportation belt, respectively.

12. The inkjet printer according to claim 10, further comprising:

a guide member disposed inside the transportation belt; projection portions, which project from both side surfaces of the guide member, wherein the guide member and the projection portions define third recess portions; and ink absorbing members disposed in the third recess portions, respectively.

13. The inkjet printer according to claim 12, wherein: the recording unit includes a plurality of inkjet heads,

which eject ink to form the image; and

the ink absorbing members have a length, which is equal to or larger than total length of the inkjet heads, in the printing medium transporting direction.

14. The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein the recording unit includes a plurality of inkjet heads, which eject ink to form the image.

15. The inkjet printer according to claim 14, wherein the first recess portion has a length equal to or larger than that of one of the ink jet head, in the printing medium transporting direction.

16. The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein in any case of using one of plural kinds of printing media having different length in the printing medium transporting direction from each other, the control unit controls the at least one of the belt rotating mechanism and the printing medium supply mechanism so that when the printing medium used is on the transportation belt, the one of the front end portion and the rear end portion of the printing medium used is located in the first recess portion.

17. The inkjet printer according to claim 1, wherein

the control unit controls the at least one of the belt rotating mechanism and the printing medium supply mechanism so that when the printing medium is on the transportation belt, the one of a front end portion and a rear end portion of the printing medium is located in the first recess portion without contacting with a bottom surface of the first recess portion.

18. An inkjet printer comprising:

a plurality of rollers;

an endless transportation belt laid on the plurality of rollers;

a recording unit which is disposed to face the transportation belt and forms an image;

a guide member disposed inside the transportation belt;

projection portions, which project from both side surfaces of the guide member, wherein the guide member and the projection portions define recess portions; and

ink absorbing members disposed in the recess portions, respectively.